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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT RUMANIAN FOOD PROCUREMENT

[Comment: Complaints against food procurement and distribution in Rumania were not uncommon in the press available in CIA during 1952. The following press items discuss the situation in Craiova, Bucharest, and Cluj. Vaslui Raion reported one measure to stimulate the procurement of agricultural products to solve this situation.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Craiova

The Union of Consumer Cooperatives of Craiova Raion failed to fulfill its procurement plan for the first quarter of 1952 in regard to food products. The plan for the procurement of cattle and hogs failed completely. Vegetable contracts were not carried out. This is serious because the state supplied the cooperatives with large quantities of industrial goods to be sold to villages in exchange for agricultural products. President Ion Cazacu and Vice-President Nicolae Mihaila of the Union of Consumer Cooperatives of Craiova Raion did not carry out their duties properly. This attitude of the union was reflected in individual cooperatives, such as those of Batovcesti, Teasc, Breasta, Smadovita, Brabova, Breasta, and Cotofenii, which failed to carry out their work successfully.

Cooperatives paid farmers for milk 5 months in arrears. The price of some food products fell on the open market because of their abundance. However, the union maintained a rigid purchase price policy, keeping official prices at a higher level than those of the open market. Thus, for example, the cooperative in Isalnita paid .50 lei per kilogram for green onions, while on the open market they brought only .30 lei per kilogram. Consequently, the cooperatives obtained great quantities of onions which they were unable to resell.

As a result of poor control and supervision, cashier D. Stoica of the Romanesti cooperative was able to keep false records. In Cosoveni, the manager withheld goods from the cooperative.(1)

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Bucharest

The vegetable supply in Bucharest Regiune must be improved. Cooperatives and units of the OCL (Organization for the Collection of Vegetables), which are responsible, failed to keep up a continuous supply. The store on Grivita Rosie Piata in Bucharest, for example, sold its onions, lettuce, radishes, potatoes, peas, and other vegetables in 1-2 hours on 31 May. This is also typical of Crangasi, Rahova, Gheorghe Cosbuc and other stores. Raion cooperatives such as Unirea Muncitorilor, Gloria, and Victoria failed to meet supply standards, since units of the OCL did not adhere to contracts made with producers. They did not devote sufficient attention to vegetable-procurement centers which supply the capital. This was particularly true of managements in Mihailesti and Vidra raions, which supplied only part of their quota.

To overcome these difficulties, procurement centers must be staffed with responsible personnel and provided with the necessary equipment. Errors such as those committed by the Popesti and Singureni cooperatives in Mihailesti Raion must be avoided. Agents of consumer cooperatives and of agricultural villages must make prompt delivery of vegetables in good condition. (2)

Cluj

In Cluj Regiune the Enterprise for the Production of Milk is in charge of milk procurement from Cluj, Huedin, Gherla, and Turda raions. This enterprise ignored the problem of hiring the right personnel. Consequently collection centers were poorly organized. There was no exact record kept of milk deliveries. In the 400 collection points in Cluj Raion alone, there was no record of the daily supply. This lack of records in regard to quantity of milk and butterfat percentage encouraged hostile elements and speculators in cream and cheese centers to perpetrate frauds. In Mara, for example, the milk-processing center hired an old speculator named Andrei Simon. He gave producers credit for a lower butterfat content than they actually delivered, and thus they received less money for their products. In Sava, an even more serious fraud was perpetrated by collector Marc Constantin. In addition to registering a lower butterfat content than actually delivered, he collected a surplus of milk products which he then credited to kulak Constantin Varga of Mureseni-de-Campie. In reality, this kulak had delivered nothing. Such acts were made possible by the bureaucratic attitude of the enterprise management as a whole and of director Adalbert Fulop in particular.

There is an uneven distribution of containers in Cluj. In villages such as Sancreaiu, Morlaca, and Manastireni, no deliveries could be picked up by procurerent units because of the lack of containers. No collection could be made in Palatca because the separator remained in Cluj for repair. Because of poor utilization of transport collection, centers in Ruginoasa, Almasu, Zimbor, and other villages sent milk and other products late. The Enterprise for the Production of Milk neglected sanitation at collection and processing centers. At Almasu, Hida, and other villages, there is a disregard for even the most elementary hygienic measures.

In some villages, party members, people's councils, and employees were not mobilized by primary party organs to lead in the fulfillment of quotas. (3)

Vaslui

To improve the food procurement situation in Vaslui Raion, the executive committee of the people's council set up special state and cooperative stores at agricultural procurement stations in preparation for the harvest. To encourage deliveries by peasants, the Vaslui, Albesti, Raesti, and Crasna procurement centers sponsored OCL food and consumer goods booths which were supplied with cloths, linen, shoes, and food products. (4)

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SOURCES

1. Scanteia, 1 Jun 52
2. Ibid., 6 Jun 52
3. Ibid., 7 Jun 52
4. Viata Sindicala, 16 Jul 52

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